

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 EURE-00

NIC-01 /134 W

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P R 061743Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 707

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 2776

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR,ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: FGTB GENSEC SAYS PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST UNIONS NEED  
SUPPORT NOW

REF: BRUSSELS 2775

1. GENSEC BELGIAN GENERAL FEDERATION OF LABOR (FGTB) AND VICE  
PRESIDENT OF ICFTU GEORGES DEBUNNE TOLD GROUP OF BRUSSELS BASED  
LABATTS (FRG, UK, NETHERLANDS, USEC AND US EMBASSY) AT LUNCHEON  
MAY 3 THAT HE WAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABILITY OF  
PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST TRADE UNIONS AND MARIO SOARES TO COMPETE  
WITH BETTER FINANCED COMMUNIST UNIONS. HE SAID THAT SINCE  
SOCIALIST UNIONS IN PORTUGAL WOULD NOT RECEIVE DIRECT FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SOURCES AS WOULD COMMUNISTS,  
THE ICFTU AND EWESTERN UNIONS FRIEDLY TO SOARES WOULD HAVE TO  
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MOVE VERY QUICKLY TO PROVIDE HIM NEEDED SUPPORT. HE IMPLIED

THAT DELAY COULD BE FATAL TO SOARES CAUSE, AND SAID AN ICFTU GROUP COMPOSED OF PRESIDENT KERSTEN, ETUC PRESIDENT FEATHER, AND HIMSELF WERE PLANNING TO VISIT PORTUGAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO INDICATE SUPPORT FOR SOARES AND SEE THAT COULD BE DONE TO ASSIST THE SOCIALIST UNIONS. HE SAID WCL GENSEC KULKOWSKI WAS ALREADY THERE WITH A VIEW TO SUPPORTING THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS, WHICH DEBUNNE SAID WOULD ONLY FRAGMENT SUPPORT FOR FREE TRADE UNIONISM TO THE COMMUNISTS' ADVANTAGES.

2. DEBUNNE SAID HE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH SOARES, WHO HAD ALSO MET WITH BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE, AND ALTHOUGH DEBUNNE DID NOT CREDIT HIS OWN PESSIMISM ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION DIRECTLY TO SOARES, IT WAS CLEAR THAT SOARES IN PRIVATE MUST HAVE INDICATED TO DEBUNNE MUCH MORE CONCERN OVER AN APPROACHING CONTEST WITH PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS THAN HE DID IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL).STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR OBJECTIVES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAY 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FGTB GENSEC SAYS PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST UNIONS NEED SUPPORT NOW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ELAB, PO, ICFTU, FGTB, (DEBUNNE, GEORGE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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